

# EVENING GRAPHIC

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## MAGAZINE SECTION

Human Interest  
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SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 1926

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# MRS. HALL'S AMAZING POISE ASCRIBED TO BLOOD OF KINGS

## Slain Pastor's Widow, Wed to Follow Family Tradition, Traces Line Back to the Conqueror

WHO is Mrs. Frances Noel Stevens Hall? What is the life history of this mysterious woman, accused of the murder of her husband, the Rev. Edward Wheeler Hall of New Brunswick, N. J., and his choir singer, Mrs. Eleanor R. Mills?

Almost from the moment, nearly four years ago, that the bodies of the couple were found under a crabapple tree on the Phillips farm, the widow's personality has been a riddle which none seemed able to solve.

It has remained for George Dowling Love, editor, expert genealogist, himself a Mayflower descendant, and vice-president of Monmouth County Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, to reveal her as probably the most distinguished woman, from the standpoint of ancient lineage, ever to be accused of murder in America.

By following the series of articles he has written exclusively for this newspaper, readers will better understand the character of Mrs. Hall and her amazing attitude of poise under fire. The articles, of which this is the first, will give a detailed history of her family.

By George Dowling Love

THE veil of mystery which has enshrouded the early history of Mrs. Frances Noel Stevens Hall and baffled investigators has been lifted by an investigation of the records of a dim and distant past.

This lonely widow who has suffered untold miseries with the uncomplaining spirit and quiet fortitude of a gentlewoman has been generally recognized as a paragon of culture and refinement.

A woman of considerable means, she was noted for her many acts of charity and her kindness to people of inferior station. Her devotion to the Episcopal Church, in which she was brought up, has always been marked.

### Remarkable Personality

Since the double crime which shocked not only the people of New Brunswick but of the entire state and nation, Mrs. Hall has remained in seclusion. Her self-possession has been remarkable. Despite the terrible blow to her pride in the discovery that her husband had doubtless been untrue to her, Mrs. Hall has maintained a calm exterior. She has seemed a stranger to emotion, giving the impression thereby to the unthinking that she was a hard woman and possessed of strongly marked masculine characteristics.

What tumult may be raging in her breast, however, is probably known only to herself and her Maker.

### Hides Emotions

That she will ever reveal to the gaze of the curious the emotions which have tormented her during the past four years seems



out of the question, in view of her known pride and abhorrence of anything coarse or vulgar.

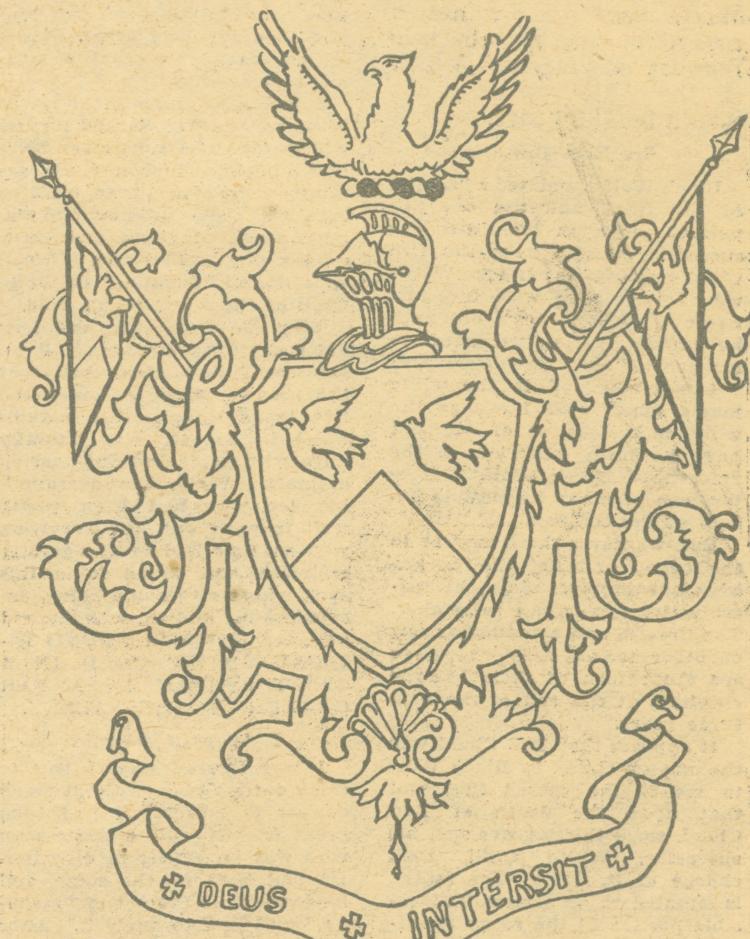
This woman, Mrs. Frances Noel Stevens Hall, though reared in an atmosphere of refinement and religious observances and a constant church attendant throughout her entire life, stands charged with the slaying of her faithless husband, the Rev. Edward Wheeler Hall, and his inamorata, constant companion and perhaps temptress, the pretty but weak willed Mrs. Eleanor R. Mills. Like a modern Helen of Troy, friends of the deceased clergyman fain would believe, Mrs. Mills lured him to destruction by the fascinating cadences of an unusually rich and sympathetic voice.

### Her Revolutionary Ancestor

Details of the crime, the re-crudescence of which may have a far reaching effect upon the fortunes of more than one leading New Jersey politician, need no recapitulation here.

It might be illuminating, however, to call attention to the apparent significance attaching to the finding of the bodies beneath an apple tree, the apple being regarded as the forbidden fruit, for partaking of which Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden.

This article will have to do



*B* tephew

The three principal figures in the Hall tragedy are shown at top (left to right), Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, the Rev. Edward Wheeler Hall and Mrs. Eleanor Mills, slain with him. Mrs. Hall's interesting family coat-of-arms is depicted above. At lower left is George Dowling Love, genealogist and author of this article.

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